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EXAMINER

CHOJNACKI, MELLISSA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,453

Applicant(s)

PHOHA ET AL.

Examiner

Melissa M Chojnacki

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The arrangement of the disclosed application does not conform with 37 CFR 1.77(b).

Section headings are boldface throughout the disclosed specification.

Section headings should not be underlined and/or **boldfaced**.

Appropriate corrections are required according to the guidelines provided below:

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.

Art Unit: 2175

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

3. The abstract contains more than 150 words. The abstract should contain 150 words or less. Appropriate corrections are required according to the guidelines provided below:

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "A method implemented in a web farm according to claim 11" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. For the purpose of examination, the examiner is making the assumption that claim 11 is indeed dependent from claim 10 (not claim 11). Correction is required.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because it is dependent on rejected independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2175

8. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lakshmi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,648) in view of Kakazu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,333,238).

As to claim 1, Lakshmi et al. teaches a system having a plurality of computers each having data sets stored thereon, a method of assigning a computer to service a request for a data set (See abstract; column 3, lines 66-67; column 12, lines 53-63), the method comprising the steps of:

(b) receiving a request for particular data set I (See column 5, lines 1-6, where "receiving a request" is read on "generated queries");

(d) selecting a computer assignment associated with a selected one of the output nodes to service the data request, where the selected output node is associated with a specific weight (See column 3, lines 6-15, lines 40-44), the specific weight selected to minimize a predetermined metric measuring the distance between the vector entry $R(I)$ and the weights (I,k) associated with the input node I and the output nodes (See column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4).

Lakshmi et al. does not teach providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I, the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time.

Kakazu et al. teaches a method and apparatus for checking input-output characteristic of neural network (See abstract), in which he teaches providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes (See column 1, lines 13-22; column 2, lines 18-26; column 3, lines 50-55), each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers (See abstract), and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node (See abstract; column 1, lines 13-22, lines 32-36); and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(l)$ at input node l, the entry $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time (See column 2, lines 27-30; column 4, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., to include providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(l)$ at input node l, the entry $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., by the teachings of Kakazu et al. because providing a neural network having at least an

Art Unit: 2175

input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(l)$ at input node l, the entry $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time would improve the method and apparatus for easily checking or inspecting the input-output characteristic of a neural network (See Kakazu et al., column 2, lines 9-12).

As to claim 2, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the method further includes the step of updating the specific weight (See Lakshmi et al., column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4; column 6, lines 65-67; also see Kakazu et al., abstract; column 1, lines 28-31).

As to claim 3, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the step of updating the specific weight includes modifying the specific weight with a factor dependent the metric distance between the vector entry $R(l)$ and the specific weight (See Lakshmi et al., column 5, lines 2-6, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4; column 6, lines 65-67).

As to claim 4, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the step of updating the specific weight further includes modifying the specific weight with a

Art Unit: 2175

means to balance the load across a subset of the output nodes (See Lakshmi et al., column 5, lines 2-6, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4; column 6, lines 65-67).

As to claim 5, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the means to balance the load across a subset of the output nodes is dependent upon the number of data requests serviced by the subset of the output nodes over the predetermined period of time divided by the number of output nodes in the subset of the output nodes (See Lakshmi et al., column 5, lines 63-67; column 6, lines 1-4, lines 54-59).

As to claim 6, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches wherein $R(I)$ is proportional to the ratio of (the number of previous requests for the requested data set) and (the number of previous requests for a subset of all data sets), over the predetermined period of time (See Lakshmi et al., column 1, lines 25-29; column 7, lines 24-27).

As to claim 7, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches wherein each output node is associated with a neighborhood of other output nodes, and the step of updating the specific weight includes updating each weight in the neighborhood of the output node associated with the specific weight (See Lakshmi et al., column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4; column 6, lines 65-67; also see Kakazu et al., abstract; column 1, lines 28-31).

Art Unit: 2175

As to claim 8, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the update is according to the formula $W(l,j)=W(l,j) + \alpha((R(l)-w(l,j)) + \beta(Y-W(i,k) - \gamma * W(l,j))$, where α , β and γ are predetermined constants (See Kakazu et al., column 6, lines 39-41).

As to claim 9, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the input vector's components, other than the component $R(l)$ associated with the input node l , are of value zero (See Lakshmi et al., abstract; column 2, lines 47-58).

As to claim 10, Lakshmi et al. teaches in a web farm of servers, a method of selecting a server to service a user request for a data set (See abstract; column 3, lines 66-67; column 12, lines 53-63) comprising the steps of:

(b) receiving a request for particular data set l (See column 5, lines 1-6, where "receiving a request" is read on "generated queries");

(d) selecting a server assignment associated with one of the output nodes to service the data request, where the output node is associated with a specific weight, the specific weight selected to minimize a predetermined metric measuring the distance between the vector entry $R(l)$ and the weights $w(l,k)$ associated with the input node l and the output nodes (See column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4).

Lakshmi et al. does not teach providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the servers, and associated

Art Unit: 2175

weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I , the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time.

Kakazu et al. teaches a method and apparatus for checking input-output characteristic of neural network (See abstract), in which he teaches providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the servers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node (See column 1, lines 13-22; column 2, lines 18-26; column 3, lines 50-55), each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers (See abstract), and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node (See abstract; column 1, lines 13-22, lines 32-36); and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I , the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time (See column 2, lines 27-30; column 4, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., to include providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the servers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I , the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon

Art Unit: 2175

the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., by the teachings of Kakazu et al. because providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the servers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(l)$ at input node l, the entry $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time would improve the method and apparatus for easily checking or inspecting the input-output characteristic of a neural network (See Kakazu et al., column 2, lines 9-12).

As to claim 11, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the method is implemented on at least one server in the web farm (See Lakshmi et al., column 3, lines 20-27).

As to claim 12, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches where the method is implemented on at least one router in the web farm (See Lakshmi et al., column 12, lines 53-63, where "router" is read on "device").

As to claim 13, Lakshmi et al. as modified, teaches comprising the step of transmitting the request to the server associated with the server assignment (See Lakshmi et al., column 3, lines 20-27; column 10, lines 12-22).

As to claim 14, Lakshmi et al. teaches a computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for performing a method of assigning a computer from a set of computers to service a request for a data set, the method (See abstract; column 3, lines 66-67; column 12, lines 53-63) comprising the steps of:

(b) receiving a request for particular data set I (See column 5, lines 1-6, where "receiving a request" is read on "generated queries");

(d) selecting a computer assignment associated with a specific one of the series of weights $w(I,j)$ to service the data request, where the specific weight is selected to minimize a predetermined metric measuring the distance between the value $R(I)$ and the weights $w(I,k)$ associated with the particular data set 1 (See column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4).

Lakshmi et al. does not teach associating for each data set I a series of weights $w(I,j)$, where $j=1$, number of computers in the set of computers, associating with each individual weight $w(I,j)$ one of the computers from the set of computers; and associating with the requested data set a value $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data set over a predetermined period of time.

.Art Unit: 2175

Kakazu et al. teaches a method and apparatus for checking input-output characteristic of neural network (See abstract), in which he teaches associating for each data set l a series of weights $w(l,j)$, where $j=l$, number of computers in the set of computers, associating with each individual weight $w(l,j)$ one of the computers from the set of computers (See abstract; column 1, lines 13-22, lines 32-36; column 2, lines 18-26; column 3, lines 50-55); and associating with the requested data set a value $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data set over a predetermined period of time (See column 2, lines 27-30; column 4, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., to include associating for each data set l a series of weights $w(l,j)$, where $j=l$, number of computers in the set of computers, associating with each individual weight $w(l,j)$ one of the computers from the set of computers; and associating with the requested data set a value $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data set over a predetermined period of time.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., by the teachings of Kakazu et al. because associating for each data set l a series of weights $w(l,j)$, where $j=l$, number of computers in the set of computers, associating with each individual weight $w(l,j)$ one of the computers from the set of computers; and associating with the requested data set a value $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data set over a

.Art Unit: 2175

predetermined period of time would improve the method and apparatus for easily checking or inspecting the input-output characteristic of a neural network (See Kakazu et al., column 2, lines 9-12).

As to claim 15, Lakshmi et al., teaches a computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for performing a method of assigning a computer for a set of computers to service a request for a data set (See abstract; column 3, lines 66-67; column 12, lines 53-63) comprising the steps of:

(b) receiving a request for particular data set I (See column 5, lines 1-6, where "receiving a request" is read on "generated queries");

(d) selecting a computer assignment associated with one of the output nodes to revise the data request, where the output node is associated with a specific weight, the 1 specific weight selected to minimize a predetermined metric measuring the distance between the vector entry $R(I)$ and the weights (I,k) associated with the input node I and the output nodes (See column 3, lines 6-17, lines 40-44; column 5, lines 65-67; column 6, lines 1-4).

Lakshmi et al. does not teach providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I, the

.Art Unit: 2175

entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time,

Kakazu et al. teaches a method and apparatus for checking input-output characteristic of neural network (See abstract), in which he teaches providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node (See abstract; column 1, lines 13-22, lines 32-36; column 2, lines 18-26; column 3, lines 50-55); and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I , the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time (See column 2, lines 27-30; column 4, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., to include providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and imputing to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(I)$ at input node I , the entry $R(I)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time,

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Lakshmi et al., by the

Art Unit: 2175

teachings of Kakazu et al. because providing a neural network having at least an input layer having J input nodes and an output layer having K output nodes, each of the output nodes associated with one of the computers, and associated weights $w(j,k)$ between each the input node and each the output node; and inputting to the input layer an input vector having an entry $R(l)$ at input node l, the entry $R(l)$ being dependent upon the number of requests for the requested data over a predetermined period of time would improve the method and apparatus for easily checking or inspecting the input-output characteristic of a neural network (See Kakazu et al., column 2, lines 9-12).

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mellissa M. Chojnacki whose telephone number is 730-305-8769. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mmc
July 1, 2004



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER